

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8008

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMDESSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2752

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS OF EGYPTIAN POSITION ON MIDDLE
EAST SETTLEMENT

1. MARGALIT IN APRIL 6 HAARETZ ARTICLE CLAIMING KNOWLEDGEABLE
GOI SOURCES STATES THAT FAFEZ ISMAIL DURING HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS
IN WESTERN CAPITALS MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT NOW FAVORS ONLY TWO
STAGES FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. MARGALIT ASSERTS THAT IN RETURN
FOR LIMITED PEACE SETTLEMENT, ISMAIL DEMANDED FULL ISRAELI WITH-
DRAWAL FROM SINAI, AND INDICATED THAT FULL PEACE SETTLEMENT WILL
OPEN
BORDER BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER
ISRAEL HAD SATISFIED WISHES AND CLAIMS OF PALESTINIANS.

2. MARGALIT WRITES THAT AFTER LEARNING OF THIS EVOLUTION IN EGYPTIAN
ATTITUDE, ISRAEL MADE CLEAR IT TOTALLY REJECTS IDEA OF
COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AS PART OF FIRST STAGE. MOREOVER,
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ACCORDING TO MARGALIT, DAYAN HAS RECENTLY TAKEN POSITION WITHIN GOI THAT ISRAEL MUST RETAIN PERMANENTLY A PRESENCE ALONG ALL HIGH GROUND IN SINAI, WEST BANK, AND GOLAN HEIGHTS. THIS WAS NECESSARY ACCORDING TO REPORTED DAYAN VIEW BECAUSE TO SURRENDER HIGH GROUND WOULD DILUTE EFFECTIVENESS OF ISRAELI AIR SUPERIORITY AND THUS ENDANGER ISRAEL'S SECURITY. MARGALIT DESCRIBES DAYAN AS HAVING STATED THAT LAND CORRIDOR FROM EILAT TO SHARM EL-SHEIKH WOULD INBEED GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION THROUGH GULF OF AQABA FOR ISRAEL BUT WOULD NOT ASSURE SECURITY OF ISRAEL ITSELF, FOR WHICH PURPOSE IDF CONTROL OF MOUNTAINS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS NECESSARY.

3. MARGALIT CITES EBAN AS HAVING DESCRIBED THIS EVOLUTION IN EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AS A HARDENING BY CAIRO ON BOTH PEACE AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES. MARGALIT CLAIMS OTHER SENIOR ISRAELIS HAVE TAKEN VIEW THAT CONTINUING US DIALOGUE WITH EGYPT MAY PRODUCE MOVEMENT AFTER ONE OR TWO YEARS BUT IS UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN NEAR FUTURE; THEREFORE, ISRAEL SHOULD ADHERE STRICTLY TO UNDERSTANDING WITH US ON INTERIM SETTLEMENT CONCLUDED BY MRS MEIR DURING DECEMBER 1971 VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND SUBSEQUENT SISCO-RABIN CLARIFICATIONS.
ZURHELLEN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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